



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

***Raised Bill No. 6459***

LCO No. 3320



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced by:  
(VA)

***AN ACT CONCERNING TUITION WAIVERS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS  
AND MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD ENROLLED AT  
CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10a-143 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

3 (a) The Board of Regents for Higher Education in concert with the  
4 state's institutions of higher education, shall study, develop and  
5 coordinate the implementation of new methods of awarding  
6 undergraduate degrees and college credits including, but not limited  
7 to: (1) External degrees awarded on the basis of acceptable  
8 performance in an educational field whether or not the necessary  
9 education was obtained by the candidate at an institution of higher  
10 education, and (2) examinations and methods other than classroom  
11 instruction for determining qualifications. On or before July 1, 1993,  
12 each constituent unit of the state system of higher education shall  
13 establish procedures to award college credits pursuant to this  
14 subsection and subsection (e) of this section.

15 (b) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall promulgate  
16 regulations to authorize accredited institutions of higher education to  
17 award degrees by such new procedures.

18 (c) There shall continue to be a Board for State Academic Awards  
19 which shall be an independent constituent unit of the state system of  
20 higher education with authority to grant undergraduate and graduate  
21 credits and degrees on the basis of (1) examinations, (2) courses offered  
22 by Charter Oak State College, and (3) other forms of evaluation and  
23 validation of learning including transfer of credit. Said board is  
24 authorized to use the term "Charter Oak State College" on diplomas  
25 and other documents and utterances to affirm the status of the board  
26 as a degree-granting institution of higher education. It shall be the  
27 responsibility of the board to serve the interest of all Connecticut  
28 residents by providing open access to academic credentials which are  
29 based on a consensus of professional judgment. The purpose of such  
30 credentials shall be to identify and give recognition to higher learning  
31 acquired by individuals through independent study, work experience  
32 and programs of noncollegiate educational activity.

33 (d) Beginning on January 1, 2012, the Board of Regents for Higher  
34 Education shall serve as the Board for State Academic Awards. The  
35 members of the Board for State Academic Awards in office on June 30,  
36 2011, shall remain in office to provide assistance in transitioning duties  
37 and responsibilities to the Board of Regents for Higher Education  
38 during the period of July 1, 2011, to December 31, 2011. For the  
39 transition period of July 1, 2011, to December 31, 2011, any action of  
40 the Board for State Academic Awards shall not be final until ratified by  
41 the Board of Regents for Higher Education. Until December 31, 2011,  
42 the Board for State Academic Awards shall consist of nine persons,  
43 eight to be appointed by the Governor, who shall reflect the state's  
44 geographic, racial and ethnic diversity; one of whom shall be an  
45 alumnus of Charter Oak State College; and one to be elected by the  
46 students enrolled in Charter Oak State College. On or before July 1,  
47 1983, the Governor shall appoint two members of the board for a term

48 of two years from said date, two members for a term of four years  
49 from said date and one member for a term of six years from said date.  
50 On or before July 1, 1984, the Governor shall appoint one member for a  
51 term of three years from said date. On or before July 1, 1996, the  
52 Governor shall appoint two members, one for a term of five years from  
53 said date and one for a term of one year from said date. Thereafter the  
54 Governor shall appoint members of said board to succeed those  
55 appointees whose terms expire, such members to serve for terms of six  
56 years each from July first in the year of their appointment. On or  
57 before November 1, 1984, and biennially thereafter, the students  
58 enrolled with the board shall, in such manner as the board shall  
59 determine, elect one member of the board, who shall serve for a term  
60 of two years from November first in the year of his election. No  
61 member of said board, appointed by the Governor, shall be an  
62 employee of an institution of postsecondary or higher education. No  
63 member who has served consecutively for two full terms or portions  
64 thereof may again be appointed until two years have passed. The  
65 Governor shall, pursuant to section 4-9a, appoint the chairperson of  
66 the board. The board shall, annually, elect from its members such other  
67 officers as it deems necessary. The Governor shall fill any vacancies in  
68 the membership of said board by appointment for the balance of the  
69 unexpired term. The members of said board shall receive no  
70 compensation for their services as such but shall be reimbursed for  
71 their necessary expenses in the course of their duties. The board shall  
72 meet at least once during each calendar quarter and at such other times  
73 as the chairperson deems necessary or upon the request of a majority  
74 of members in office. Any member who fails to attend three  
75 consecutive meetings or who fails to attend fifty per cent of all  
76 meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have  
77 resigned from office.

78 (e) (1) The Board for State Academic Awards shall develop and  
79 implement programs to improve opportunities in higher education  
80 through alternative modes of service, including, but not limited to,  
81 guidance and information services, registration and validation

82 services, examination and degree-granting services, technological  
83 delivery systems, and projects of research and development. With  
84 respect to its own operation the board may appoint and remove an  
85 executive director, who shall be the chief academic and administrative  
86 officer, and a professional academic staff. The board may appoint and  
87 remove executive staff responsible for the operation of the Board for  
88 State Academic Awards. The board may determine the size of the  
89 academic staff and the duties, terms, and conditions of employment of  
90 said director and staff. The board shall establish through appointments  
91 on an adjunct basis a faculty of consulting examiners to make  
92 recommendations as to requirements and standards of the board's  
93 programs and to make recommendations for the award of academic  
94 undergraduate and graduate credits and degrees. Persons serving as  
95 members of the faculty of consulting examiners shall have appropriate  
96 professional qualifications as determined by the board and may hold  
97 professional appointments in active status at accredited institutions of  
98 postsecondary or higher learning. Within the limit of appropriations,  
99 the board shall fix the compensation of persons serving with adjunct  
100 appointment as members of the faculty of consulting examiners. The  
101 board shall confer such undergraduate and graduate certificates and  
102 degrees as are appropriate to programs of postsecondary and higher  
103 learning and in accordance with the recommendations of the board's  
104 faculty of consulting examiners on the basis of (A) examinations, (B)  
105 courses offered by Charter Oak State College, and (C) other forms of  
106 validation and evaluation of learning, including transfer of credit. The  
107 board shall assist public institutions of higher education in establishing  
108 and implementing procedures to award college credits pursuant to  
109 subsection (a) of this section.

110 (2) The Board for State Academic Awards shall develop a mission  
111 statement which shall include, but not be limited to, the following  
112 elements: (A) The educational needs of, and constituencies served by  
113 the board; (B) the degrees offered by the board; and (C) the role and  
114 scope of the programs offered by the board.

115 (f) The board shall fix fees for examinations and for such other  
116 purposes as the board deems necessary and may make refunds and  
117 other disposition of same as provided by law or regulation. The board  
118 may make contracts, leases or other agreements in connection with its  
119 responsibilities.

120 (g) The Board for State Academic Awards shall establish and  
121 administer a fund to be known as the Board for State Academic  
122 Awards Operating Fund, which shall be a separate account within the  
123 General Fund. The operating fund shall be used for the expenses of the  
124 board, including personnel expenses and equipment, and for the  
125 support of board activities pursuant to this section, including  
126 validation and evaluation of learning, guidance and public  
127 information services, projects of research and development for the  
128 improvement of learning materials and the technology of delivery  
129 systems, and for the purchase of such services, materials and  
130 equipment as are required for use in connection with said activities.  
131 Appropriations from general revenues of the state, all fees and  
132 proceeds of the board's activities, including grants and donations, not  
133 required by statute or regulation to be deposited to the credit of the  
134 General Fund, shall be credited to and become a part of the resources  
135 of said operating fund. Any balance of receipts above expenditures  
136 shall remain in said operating fund.

137 (h) The Board for State Academic Awards shall promote fund-  
138 raising to assist its programs pursuant to this section and shall report  
139 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
140 cognizance of matters relating to higher education by January 1, 1994,  
141 and biennially thereafter, on such fund-raising.

142 (i) (1) The Board for State Academic Awards shall waive the  
143 payment of tuition at Charter Oak State College (A) subject to the  
144 provisions of subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection, for any  
145 veteran who (i) performed service in time of war, (ii) has been accepted  
146 for admission to Charter Oak State College, and (iii) was domiciled in  
147 this state at the time such veteran was accepted for admission to

148 Charter Oak State College, and (B) for any active member of the  
 149 Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who (i) has been certified by  
 150 the Adjutant General or the Adjutant General's designee as a member  
 151 in good standing of the guard, and (ii) is enrolled or accepted for  
 152 admission to Charter Oak State College on a full-time or part-time  
 153 basis in a degree-granting program. If any person who receives a  
 154 tuition waiver in accordance with the provisions of this subdivision  
 155 also receives educational reimbursement from an employer, such  
 156 waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such educational  
 157 reimbursement. Veterans and members of the National Guard  
 158 described in this subdivision shall be given the same status as students  
 159 not receiving tuition waivers in registering for courses at Charter Oak  
 160 State College. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as  
 161 used in this subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domiciled for  
 162 less than one year. For purposes of this subsection, "service in time of  
 163 war" has the same meaning as provided in subsection (a) of section 27-  
 164 103, except that it does not include time spent in attendance at a  
 165 military service academy, and "tuition" means a direct charge for  
 166 distance learning courses or online certificate courses offered by  
 167 Charter Oak State College, which is clearly delineated from any other  
 168 fees.

169 (2) If any veteran described in subdivision (1) of this subsection has  
 170 applied for federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11  
 171 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, the Board for State  
 172 Academic Awards shall waive the payment of tuition at Charter Oak  
 173 State College for such veteran in accordance with subdivision (3) of  
 174 this subsection. If any such veteran certifies to said board that such  
 175 veteran's application for such federal educational assistance has been  
 176 denied or withdrawn, said board shall waive the payment of tuition in  
 177 accordance with subdivision (1) of this subsection.

178 (3) (A) For purposes of this subdivision, "veteran tuition benefit"  
 179 means the portion of federal educational assistance under the Post-  
 180 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 to be paid to Charter

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

<b>VA</b>	<i>Joint Favorable C/R</i>	HED
<b>HED</b>	<i>Joint Favorable C/R</i>	APP